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منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

TL 4301

EXTERNAL **AI Index: ASA 21/06/98**

UA 27/98 **Fear of arrest as POC** **27 January 1998**

EAST TIMOR

Manuel Viegas Carrascalao
Drs Francisco Lopes de Carvalho
Maria Quintao (f)
Plus 18 others (names unknown)

Up to 21 members of a newly formed, peaceful organization in East Timor - the Movement for Reconciliation and Unity of the People of East Timor (*Gerakan Rekonsilisasi dan Persatuan Rakyat Timor Timor* - GRPRTT) are under threat of arrest because of their support for a peaceful settlement to the problem East Timor. If they are arrested, Amnesty International would consider them to be prisoners of conscience.

The president of the GRPRTT, Manuel Viegas Carrascalao, its general secretary, Francisco Lopes de Carvelho, Maria Quintao and 18 others were first summonsed for questioning by the police in Dili, East Timor's capital, on 10 January 1998. They refused to, but instead issued a statement rejecting the summons and demanding that an open and fair dialogue between all factions involved in the dispute over East Timor be arranged. A second summons has now been issued and Chief of Police for East Timor, Colonel Atok Rismanto, is reported to have threatened to use force to bring the GRPRTT members for questioning if they refuse to answer the summons.

The GRPRTT was launched in December 1997 by a number of leading figures in East Timor. Many of its members had previously been active supporters of the integration of East Timor into Indonesia, but have become disillusioned by the level of human rights violations perpetrated by the Indonesian security forces in East Timor and the lack of participation in government by East Timorese. The stated aim of the organization is to mobilise and unify the people of East Timor to strive for a resolution to the problem through dialogue.

Condemnations of the GRPRTT by the authorities were made almost as soon as the movement was launched. In early December 1997, Major-General Syahrir, the military commander of the region including East Timor, was reported in the Indonesian media as saying that he regarded the group as "clandestine", and that the military authorities would be taking all necessary measures to prevent the group from exerting any influence in society. A few days later the Military Commander in East Timor, Colonel Salamat Sidabutar, said that he would arrest Manuel Viegas Carrascalao, because he is the leader of an organization opposing the Indonesian Government. In January 1998 the Governor of East Timor, Abilio Osorio Soares, officially banned the GRPRTT.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The former Portuguese colony, East Timor, was invaded by Indonesia in 1975 and subsequently claimed as Indonesia's 27th province. Ongoing resistance to Indonesian rule has been met with armed force by the Indonesian security forces resulting in serious human rights violations. Individuals opposing the occupation of East Timor, including those engaging in the peaceful expressions of opposition, have been subjected to extrajudicial killings, "disappearance", imprisonment as prisoners of conscience, torture and ill-treatment. East Timorese taken into both police and military custody are at risk of torture and ill-treatment, particularly during interrogation. Safeguards against the use of torture and other violations of detainee's rights, provided for under Indonesia's Code of Criminal Procedure, are frequently ignored by the military and the police. Detainees are

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routinely denied access to legal counsel and to their families, thereby increasing the risk of ill-treatment or torture.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:
- urging the authorities to guarantee that the right of Manuel Viegas Carrascalao, Drs Francisco Lopes de Carvalho, Maria Quintao and the other members of GRPRTT, to peacefully express their opinions is not violated and that they are not subjected to arbitrary arrest.

This is a limited action. Please send up to 20 appeals per section.

APPEALS TO:
Chief of National Police
Lt. Gen. Dibyo Widodo
Kapolri
Markas Besar kepolisian RI
Jalan Trunojoyo 13
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia
Telegrams: Kapolri, Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: + 6221 720 7277
Salutation: Dear Lt-General

Governor of East Timor
Abilio Jose Osorio Soares
Gubernur KDH TK.1 Timor Timur
J1 Infante De Henrique
Dili, East Timor
Indonesia
Telegrams: Gubernur Abilio Soares, Dili, East Timor
Faxes: +62 390 22 557
Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO:
Prof, Dr, Baharuddin Lopa
Secretary General
Komisi Nasional Hak Asazi Manusia
(National Commission on Human Rights)
Jl Lautharhary 4B
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 March 1998.